



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**STATEMENT REGARDING ARREST OF DON JOHNSON,
PARK MANAGER AT TED WATKINS PARK AND
A 40-YEAR COUNTY EMPLOYEE**

Keeping our children safe is my number one priority.

I am profoundly outraged at the allegations of sexual misconduct against children at Ted Watkins Park. Don Johnson, a forty year employee of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, has been arrested in connection with these allegations.

My sincere sympathies go out to the children and their families who may have been victimized.

If these allegations are true, it means that a long-time member of the community betrayed our trust.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department should be commended for its nimble response. I also appreciate the employees at Ted Watkins Park who came forward to report these allegations. All Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation personnel have been trained in the recognition of sexual predators. It was their actions that brought these allegations to the attention of the Sheriff's Department.

The allegations are particularly disturbing given that during my tenure on the Board of Supervisors I have ensured that tens of millions of dollars have been invested in our Second District parks and open spaces to provide children and their families with safe havens in which to recreate.

While the investigation is ongoing, my focus is ensuring that any victims and their families receive the services that they need. Any individual in need of services should contact my office.

Sexual misconduct against children within any public facility or by any county employee, or otherwise, will not be tolerated.

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